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IDEALIST

Copy 2 of 8

20 April 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Status of Fuel Used in U-2 Aircraft (Military Specification 25524-A)

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. Development Projects Division was advised by Colonel Leo P. Geary, Headquarters USAF, 1400 hours, 17 April, that all U-2 fuel in our possession was suspected of not meeting specifications for thermal stability and that all aircraft should be stood down pending an evaluation of fuel samples from each detachment.

3. The thermal stability requirement for Military Specification 25524-A fuel calls for a maximum pressure drop of ten inches of Hg in 300 minutes. The last batch of fuel delivered to the Air Force at an overseas location was tested after arrival and found to have a pressure drop of ten inches Hg in 166 minutes and ten inches Hg in 179 minutes on two different samples. The fuel came from [redacted]

[redacted] The Air Force immediately stood down all SAC U-2's pending a complete investigation. As a precaution, this Division made the same decision until the fuel in our possession at each location could be analyzed. The use of thermally unstable fuel can cause coking problems in fuel manifolds and nozzles under extended operations and could induce engine flameouts.

4. The Air Force, through the Middletown Air Materiel Area (MAAMA), Olmstead Air Force, Pennsylvania, has procurement responsibility for all U-2 fuel. They are making an emergency procurement of fuel from [redacted] and can provide us with replacement fuel if ours is determined to be unusable.

5. Fuel samples from the West Coast U-2 unit were delivered to the Air Force Fuel Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, at 1100 hours 19 April. An analysis report is expected within forty-eight hours thereafter.

25X1A

25X1A

Page 2

6. Fuel sample from the Far East detachment should arrive at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base by 23 April. Until such time as the samples are analyzed and the product qualified, we must continue to stand down. It is difficult to predict accurately how long the stand down will be in effect, but it is possible that the cumulative time loss may run until nearly the end of April for the Far East detachment if new fuel must be provided them, and about 25 April for the West Coast unit if they are in the same position.

STANLEY W. BEERLE  
*for* Colonel, USAF  
Acting Chief, DPD

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DD/R

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